

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

A new seal system for a marine riser telescoping joint is revealed. The sealing face of the seal has tapered upper and/or lower tapered surfaces. The upper and/or lower ends can have a taper of about 1-15 degrees or alternatively the surrounding housing can have the taper with the seal ends either straight cut or tapered so that the combined tapers are in the stated range. The sealing elements are preferably nitrile or polyurethane and preferably without inserts. The upper and/or lower ends of the seal can have projections or depressions to aid in end sealing and eliminate the need for end seal rings. The new seals can be used individually or in stacks in a single housing.